

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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Buchholz's Gray *Hypomecis buchholzaria*

State Status: **Endangered**

Federal Status: None

Description: Buchholz's Gray is a grayish-black geometrid moth, with an indistinct wing pattern of black spots and lines. Wingspan is 32-36 mm.

Habitat: In Massachusetts, Buchholz's Gray inhabits xeric, open habitats on sandy soil, particularly sandplain pitch pine/scrub oak barrens.

Life History: Adult moths fly in late June and early July. Larval host plants are undocumented; captive larvae accept sweetfern (*Comptonia peregrina*) and bayberry (*Myrica*) (NatureServe 2006). Larvae feed in July and August, and pupate in September. The pupa overwinters.

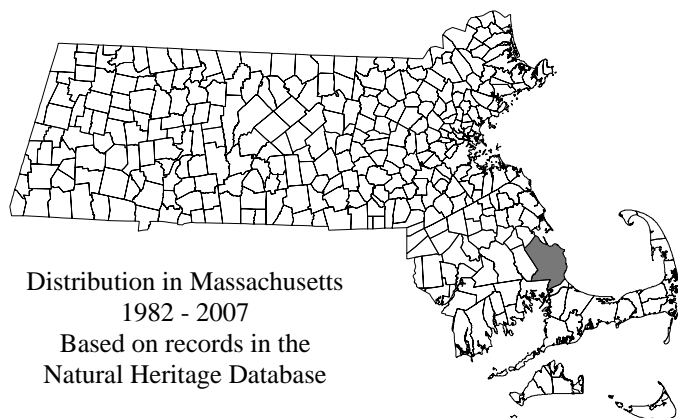
Range: Buchholz's Gray has a scattered distribution along the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, with populations in Massachusetts, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Texas (Rindge 1973); it is rare across most of this range. In Massachusetts there is a single population of Buchholz's Gray.



Photo by M.W. Nelson

Adult Flight Period in Massachusetts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



Threats

- Habitat loss
- Fire suppression
- Invasion by exotic plants
- Introduced generalist parasitoids
- Insecticide spraying
- Off-road vehicles
- Light pollution

References

NatureServe. 2006. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 18, 2007).

Rindge, F.H. 1973. A revision of the North American species of the genus *Pseudoboarmia* (Lepidoptera, Geometridae). *American Museum Novitates* 2514: 1-27.